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Vocal Performance from Renaissance to Modern Day

Katherine Souza

ksouza97@my.uri.edu

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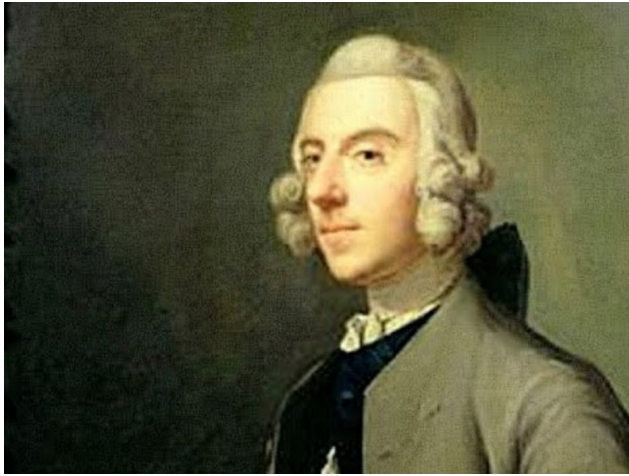
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Thomas Augustine Arne was born on March 12, 1710 in London, England. His father wanted him to become a lawyer, so he spent much of his young life directing his energy towards this goal. In secret, however, he gained such a mastery of piano and violin that his father could not object to him giving up law to become a musician. Arne took a couple lessons with Michael Festerling, but otherwise he never had any formal training. Arne also taught his younger siblings music; his younger sister would later go on to become the famous English actress, Mrs.

Cibber. Both of his younger siblings appeared in *Rosamond* in 1733, which was the first stage work that Arne ever produced. Arne was also engaged to write several pieces for the Drury Lane Theatre Company. Because of the volume and quality of these works, Arne quickly established himself as a leading English librettist of his time. Arne set several of Shakespeare's other works to music, including *As You Like It*, *Twelfth Night*, and the *Merchant of Venice*. These pieces were indicative of Arne's early musical style. In 1744, after having spent two years in Dublin, Ireland, Arne returned to Drury Lane Theatre and hired Charles Burney as an apprentice. In the next few years, Arne published several song collections before being made a Doctor of Music at Oxford in 1759. Two years later, his oratorio *Judith* was published, followed by his opera *Artaxerxes* in 1762. In the final decade of his life, Arne composed music for *The Fairy Prince* (1771), Mason's *Elfrida* (1772), and *Caractacus* (1776). Arne is generally regarded as "the most important English composer of the 18th century," and like Henry Purcell, "added substantially to the English heritage of song." Arne passed away on March 5, 1778 in London, England.

William Shakespeare was born on April 26, 1564 in Stratford-upon-Avon, England. Little is known for sure about his childhood, but it is surmised that he studied at the King Edward VI Grammar school, where he learned Latin, Greek, and Roman Literature. When he was 18, he married Anne Hathaway and they had three children together, although only one survived to adulthood. During the years 1585 to 1592, it is not documented exactly what Shakespeare was doing, however most think that he was probably studying acting in London. *Venus and Adonis* (1593) and *The Rape of Lucrece* (1594), two of Shakespeare's first poems, are dedicated to Henry Wriothesley, Shakespeare's patron during this time. In 1599, Shakespeare joined a troupe of male actors called the Chamberlain's Men; this troupe would go



on to build the Globe Theatre. Although Shakespeare was primarily a playwright, he was also a successful poet and wordsmith. He is credited with combining French, English, and Latin to create thousands of new words, among which are arch-villain, birthplace, bloodsucking, courtship, dewdrop, downstairs, fanged, heartsore, hunchbacked, leapfrog, misquote, pageantry, radiance, schoolboy, stillborn, watchdog, and zany. Shakespeare wrote more than thirty plays, all of which are still performed regularly today. Around 1612, Shakespeare retired from acting and writing, and spent his last years at home with his wife in Stratford, England before passing away on April 23, 1616.

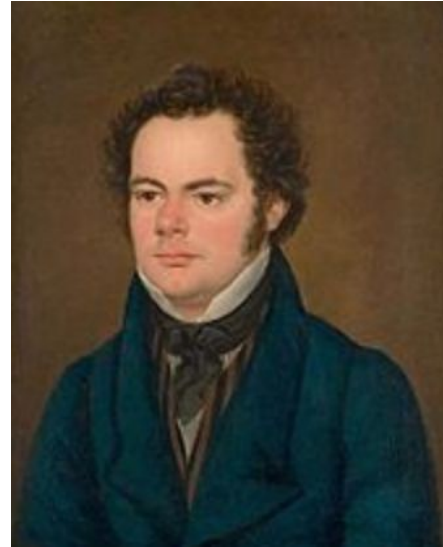
George Frideric Handel was born on February 23, 1685 in Halle, Germany. Handel's father was astonished by Handel's musical talent at a young age, but he was fearful that Handel would never be able to support himself as a musician. Hoping to prevent Handel from developing his



musical talent, it is rumored that Handel's father forbade musical instruments in their home, and he also prevented Handel from visiting anyone else's home that may have had a musical instrument in it. Whether or not this is actually true, Handel enrolled at the University of Halle in 1702 as a law student, and he also became the organist for the reformed Cathedral. He only stayed in Halle one year, before he moved north to Hamburg, Germany and began composing. In 1705, his first opera, *Almira* premiered. During the years 1706-1710, Handel was traveling all around Italy meeting other famous composers of the day, including Arcangelo Corelli and Alessandro and Domenico Scarlatti. He was

also busy composing during these years, writing two operas, many cantatas, an oratorio, and some church music. Handel's musical style was greatly influenced by his time in Italy. In the 1730s, audiences began to prefer operas sung in English over those sung in Italian or German, and this is what pushed Handel to compose four English oratorios within the same year. In 1737, at age 52, Handel suffered a stroke that left his right arm paralyzed. The doctor who treated him predicted that Handel would never be able to return to his musical career. However, Handel surprised everyone by returning to his musical career, composing *Messiah* in just 23 days in 1741. Over the next forty years, this oratorio gained tremendous popularity, and it is still one of Handel's most popular works today. Handel passed away on April 14, 1759 in London, England.

Born on January 31, 1797 in Himmelpfortgrund, Austria. Franz Schubert had four siblings, three older brothers and a younger sister. His entire family was musically talented and would regularly play string quartets together in their home, with Schubert playing the viola. As a child, Schubert received his musical education from his father and older brothers, and when he was a little bit older, Schubert took lessons with the local church organist. In 1808, Schubert won a scholarship to be part of the imperial court chapel choir and a spot in Stadtkonvikt, a boarding school in Vienna. There, he played viola in the orchestra, and studied piano, singing, and conducting. In 1812, he left school and began to take private lessons with Antonio Salieri until taking over as headmaster at his father's school in 1818. Between 1813 and 1815, Schubert composed five string quartets, three symphonies, a full length opera, and over 140 art songs. In 1814, Schubert was introduced to Franz von Schober; he and Schubert would live together for a couple of years. Schober would also introduce Schubert to singer Michael Vogl. Vogl's singing of Schubert's songs would become very fashionable in Viennese parlors in the next couple of years. These parties were so popular, in fact, that the people of Vienna gave them their own name, *Schubertiade*. Although Schubert's music was extremely popular among the wealthy, he had yet to capture the working class audience. In 1822, Schubert contracted syphilis; after this, he spent the last few years of his life composing several great masterpieces, including *Fantasy in F Minor*, *Schwanengesang*, and *String Quartet in C Major*. Schubert gave only one public concert ever, on March 26, 1828, and it was a huge success. As a result of the success of his concert, he was finally able to buy himself his first piano. By this time, however, the years of constant composition and sickness had worn him down. He became ill with typhoid fever later in 1828, and he passed away on November 19, 1828 at the age of 31.

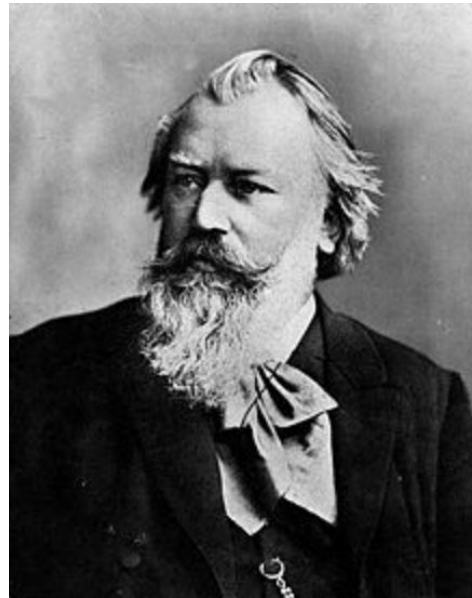




Johann Wolfgang von Goethe was born on August 28, 1749 in Frankfurt, Germany. Goethe had four siblings, however only one of them, his sister Cornelia, survived to adulthood. His early education was directed by his father and several tutors throughout his childhood and was inconsistent and sporadic. Goethe had learned to speak Greek, Latin, French, and Italian relatively well by the age of eight. In 1765, Goethe enrolled in law school at the University of Leipzig in order to fulfill his father's wishes. During his time at law school, he became well known in many theatrical circles for his poetry. After being ill with tuberculosis for two years, Goethe moved to Strasbourg, Germany in 1770 to finish his law degree. In Strasbourg, he became friends with a man named Johann Gottfried Herder, who introduced him to the works of Homer, Ossian, and

Shakespeare, all of which Goethe admits he was heavily influenced by. In 1774, von Goethe published *Die Leiden des jungen Werther*, which garnered him almost instant worldwide success. In 1775, von Goethe was invited into the Court of Duke Carl August on the basis of his reputation. As court advisor and special council to the Duke, he was in charge of mining and financial issues, the war and roads commission, as well as the local theatre. In 1782, he was granted nobility by Emperor Joseph II, and became *Geheimrat* of Weimar. In 1794, von Goethe became friends with a man named Friedrich Schiller, and the two collaborated on several great German works including *Bildungsroman*, the great *Wilhelm Meisters Lehrjahre* (1795-6), and *Hermann und Dorothea* (1796-7). Von Goethe passed away on March 22, 1832 in Weimar.

Johannes Brahms was born in Hamburg, Germany on May 7, 1833. At a young age, Brahms showed aptitude for the piano; he first studied with his father until he turned seven and Brahms's father sent him on to F.W. Cossel to continue his studies. Just two years later, Cossel passed Brahms over to his own teacher, Marxsen. Brahms was fourteen when he began playing in inns or occasionally giving recitals to earn extra money in order to help support his family. In 1850, Brahms met Eduard Reményi who introduced him to gypsy music; this provided influence for the rest of Brahms's composing career. Brahms met Robert Schumann in 1853, and the two became fast friends. Schumann ended up writing an article about Brahms in the German magazine *Neue Zeitschrift für Musik* and this catapulted Brahms into fame throughout Europe.



Throughout his career, Brahms encountered many personal and professional problems because of his hot temper and cynicism. He stepped on some toes in the music community because he never held his opinion back, and he could be brutally honest, especially about the “neo-German” school of thought. He also had difficulty expressing himself without music, and it is hypothesized that this is one of the reasons why he never married despite being in love with a handful of women throughout his life, including Clara Schumann, the wife of Brahms's good friend, Robert Schumann. Between 1857 and 1860, Brahms moved back and forth between the court of Demold and Göttingen; in these places he taught piano, conducted a choral society, and was appointed director of the women's chorus of Hamburg. From this point on Brahms led a relatively stable life, and he enjoyed much success with his compositions. He is still considered today to be an influential composer, and some of his more popular works include *A German Requiem*, *Hungarian Dances*, and *Liebeslieder Waltzes*. Brahms developed liver cancer, the same disease his father had died from, in early 1897. He passed away on April 3, 1897.

Anton Wilhelm Florentin von Zuccalmaglio was born in Waldbröl, Germany on April 12, 1803. Zuccalmaglio was born to a politician and jurist father Jakob Salentin von Zuccalmaglio, and his mother was Clara Deycks. He was one of six children; one of his brothers was also a successful poet and writer. Zuccalmaglio was mainly a poet and folklorist, however he did also compose a couple of songs, one of them being *Kein schöner Land in dieser Zeit*; This song is still found in many traditional German songbooks today. He died on March 23, 1869, in Germany.



Gioachino Rossini was born in Pesaro, Italy on February 29, 1792. He was the son of a singer and a trumpet player, so he spent much of his young life in and around the theater. When he was 14, he began studying at Bologna's Philharmonic School where he was commissioned to compose his first opera in 1806. By age 15, he had learned to play the violin, horn, and harpsichord; it was these talents, as well as singing, that he employed around the theater to earn a little extra money. When his voice broke, he couldn't continue singing, so he turned to accompanying and composing. His compositions were greatly influenced by Haydn and Mozart, and he composed about 40 operas during the 20 years from 1808-1838. Because it was fashionable at the time, Rossini composed mainly comic operas;

His first comic opera was *La cambiale di matrimonio* (*The Bill of Marriage*) which he composed in 1810. He spent time studying and composing in Milan before he traveled to Paris, where he was adored. The BBC refers to him as "the most popular, successful, and influential opera composer of the first half of the 19th century," as he had 34 famous operas to his credit, and he was only 31 by the time he settled in Paris. Rossini retired from music at the height of his fame in 1829, at age 37, to pursue his other passion, food, and he didn't compose much during his retirement. Although he lived for another 39 years after this, he never wrote another opera and no one really knows why. The only pieces to come out of his retirement were a series of salon pieces called *Péchés de vieillesse* (*Sins of Old Age*) and two sacred works, the *Stabat Mater* the *Petite messe solennelle* (*Last Mortal Sin*). He is remembered primarily for his comic operas, however his tragic and serious operas were also highly esteemed in their day. Rossini passed away on November 13, 1868 in Paris, France.

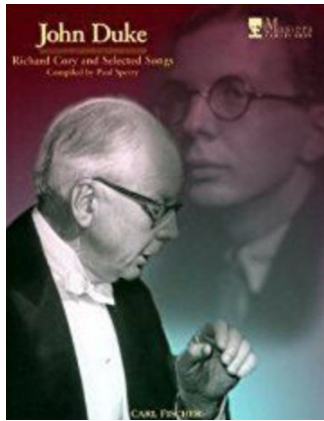
Amy Marcy Cheney, who later became Amy Beach was born on September 5, 1867 in Henniker, New Hampshire. Her mother, who was an amateur singer and pianist, fostered Beach's love for music at an early age. By age one, Beach had memorized over forty songs, and she started composing before age four. By age six, after studying piano with her mother for a year, Beach played in her first public piano recital, playing works by Beethoven, Handel, and Chopin, and even some of her own compositions. In 1875, Beach's family moved to Boston; there, Beach studied under a few piano teachers, however it became clear to both Beach and her mother that her creative spirit liked being self-taught and creating her own compositions rather than being taught to play those of others. Her mother also home schooled her during this time, and she took a liking to life sciences and language such as French and German. In 1885, she married Henry Beach, a Harvard professor and amateur singer. After they were married, her husband requested that she limit her public appearances, and it was during this time that she turned to composing. Beach experienced her first real professional success in 1892 with her Mass in E-flat. Some of her other famous works include Symphony op. 32, Violin Sonata op. 34, Piano Concerto op. 45. She was the first American woman to achieve widespread success as a composer, and many of her vocal and choral works are still performed today. She was considered a groundbreaking composer in her day because she blazed the trail for other women composers, and her influence is still felt today in that many female composers have revived some of her compositions as part of a feminist movement. Beach passed away on December 27, 1944 in New York, New York.





Joaquín Rodrigo was born on November 22, 1901 in Sagunto, Spain. Rodrigo was the youngest of ten siblings, however when he was four years old a diphtheria epidemic struck Spain, killing many of his siblings and leaving Rodrigo himself almost blind. Shortly after, their family moved to Valencia, Spain, where Rodrigo enrolled in a college for blind children in order to get an education. His family also frequented the theatre; it was here that Rodrigo discovered he particularly enjoyed the music that accompanied the shows. Although Rodrigo took classes at the Valencia Conservatoire with teachers like Francisco Antich, Enrique Gomá, and Eduardo López Chávarri. Rodrigo gives credit to Rafael Ibáñez, a friendly companion that lent his eyes to read him literature on a variety of different subjects. By the 1920s, Rodrigo was an excellent contemporary pianist, and he published his first major orchestral work in 1924. Rodrigo moved to France in 1927, and began living with a Valencian painter named

Francisco Povo, who introduced him to many artists, musicians, and editors. Rodrigo studied under Paul Dukas for five years before he met his future wife, Victoria Kamhi, in 1933. After, Rodrigo published many of his most famous works including *Cántico de la esposa* and *Per la flor del lliri blau*, his largest piece. In September of 1939, Rodrigo decided to move permanently back to Spain to pursue teaching music to the blind, and he received many awards and accolades during this time, including the Cervantes Prize. Many modern festivals, concerts, and recitals are dedicated to Rodrigo, as he has become one of the most popular figures of contemporary classical music. Rodrigo passed away on the 6th of July, 1999, in his home in Madrid, Spain.



John Woods Duke was born on July 30, 1899 in Cumberland, Maryland. He was the oldest of six siblings, and his parents were very much involved in the arts. His mother, Matilda Hoffman was an accomplished singer at the time. At age 11, Duke's mother enrolled him in piano lessons, and at age 16, he began studying at the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore under Harold Randolph for piano, and Gustav Strube for composition. During World War I, Duke volunteered for the Student Army Training Corps in New York City, and after the war ended, he continued his musical studies in New York. Some of his mentors during this time include Howard Brockway and Bernard Wagenaar, both of whom were significant composers at the time. In 1920, Duke established

himself as a concert pianist. In 1922, he married Dorothy Macon, who sometimes wrote libretti for Duke's musical compositions. In 1923, Duke began teaching at Smith College in Massachusetts as a piano instructor; He taught there for 44 years; during this time, he was composing over 265 art songs, as well as some chamber operas, a few choral pieces, and orchestral pieces. Some of these works include "Captain Lovelock" (1953), "The Sire de Maletroit" (1958), and "The Yankee Pedlar" (1962). It is said that "Duke was fascinated by the 'strange and marvelous chemistry of words and music,'" and he devoted a lot of his masterclasses to the role of singing in music. Even though he was a pianist, it was for this reason that he composed more for the voice than he did for the piano. Duke retired from Smith College in 1967. After retiring, he wrote 126 of his 265 art songs before he passed away in North Hampton, Massachusetts on October 26, 1984.

Seamus O'Sullivan, born James Sullivan Starkey was born in Dublin, Ireland on July 17, 1879. His father, William Starkey, was a physician, as well as a poet who was a friend of many other literary leaders of the day. For most of his youth, O'Sullivan was privately educated before attending Catholic medical school so that he could work in his father's pharmacy. It was during this time that O'Sullivan began publishing under the name Whaley. He is most well known for creating and editing *The Dublin Magazine* in 1923, which he edited until his death. In 1926, he married the artist Estella Solomon. Although he was friends with many literary greats like William Butler Yeats, James Stevens, George William Russell, he was not well received; as Yeats once put it, "the trouble with Seamus is that when he's not drunk, he's sober." O'Sullivan was known for being quarrelsome, particularly when drunk, which made him unpleasant to associate with. Some of his works include "The Twilight People" (1905), *Verse Sacred and Profane* (1906), and *The Earth Lover and Other Poems* (1909). O'Sullivan passed away on March 24, 1958



Franz Lehár was born on April 30, 1870 in Komáron, Hungary. His father was a horn player and a bandmaster in the military, so the family moved around frequently throughout Lehár's youth. In 1880, Lehár moved to Sternberg Germany to improve his German, and at the age of twelve he began his music career at the Prague Conservatory; There he studied music theory, composition, and violin. He did a brief stint in Austria's 50th infantry regiment band under his father, who was the bandmaster. In 1890, he became a bandmaster, and it was during this time that he began to compose his early operettas. His first opera, *Kukuška*, was not met with much success, so he returned to his post in the military and continued to compose. In 1899, he was appointed the 26th infantry regiment bandmaster in Vienna; there, he composed a few waltzes that brought him enough monetary success that he was able to leave the military and fully devote himself to music. His early works were greatly inspired by Puccini, Strauss, and Dvořák, all of whom were friends and contemporaries of his. In 1905, he composed *Die lustige Witwe* (*The Merry Widow*), and this composition brought him much international fame; It was so popular in its day that Buenos Aires played it in five separate theaters at the same time. Adolf Hitler was so fond of the work that he spared Lehár's Jewish wife deportation to a concentration camp during WWII (Music Academy Online). During his later years, Lehár's other operettas, including *The Man with Three Wives* (1908), *The Count of Luxembourg* (1909), *Gypsy Love* (1910), and *Land of Smiles* (1923), were successful in England and the United States. *The Merry Widow* and *Land of Smiles* were later filmed. He wrote one grand opera in 1934, *Giuditta*, but it was less successful than his previous works. During WWII, Lehár's relationship with Hitler and the Nazi Party remained close, most likely to ensure the safety of his Jewish wife. However, after the war, it made a number of people suspicious of Lehár, so he fled to Zürich with his wife in 1946. Two years later Lehár passed away on October 24, 1948, in Bad Ischl, Austria.

Arthur Reed Ropes was born on the 23 of December, 1859 in London, England. His career began in the academic world, he was a renowned historian and a French and German translator. Before entering the theater world, he took the pseudonym Adrian Ross in order to preserve his academic career. Ross wrote numerous librettos for musicals, some becoming quite successful. He collaborated with several composers; with Lionel Monckton, Ross contributed to *The Shop Girl* (1894), *The Orchid* (1903), and *Our Miss Gibbs* (1909). With Ivan Caryll and Harry Greenbank they produced *The Circus Girl* (1896) and with Sidney Jones *A Greek Slave* (1898), most of which were shown at the Gaiety Theatre.



“During the great days of the Gaiety Theatre, Ross contributed many lyrics to virtually all of that theatre's shows.” Ross’s academic background came in handy when he was asked to translate Franz Lehár’s *Die lustige Witwe* from German to English. A comparison of *Die lustige Witwe* and *The Merry Widow* show that Ross had more of a creative mind than the average translator. After that, he was sought after to do many other English adaptations of popular works. He even translated two other works of Franz Lehár *The Count of Luxembourg* and *Gypsy Love* into English in 1911 and 1912, respectively. Ross passed away on September 10, 1933 in London, England.

Victor Herbert was born on February 1, 1859 in Dublin, Ireland. His father died when he was a baby, and her mother remarried a German physician. The family moved to Stuttgart, Germany when Herbert was just 7 years old. Herbert began his career in Germany as a composer and cellist, studying under Max Seifritz and Bernhard Cossmann at the Stuttgart Conservatory. In 1886, he and his wife move to the United States where his wife became a *prima donna* at the Metropolitan Opera. Herbert was a cellist in the Metropolitan Orchestra, and he was also a soloist in two cello concerti with the New Philharmonic Orchestra. In 1894, he published his first operetta, *Prince Ananias*, which gained him some recognition in the music circle. He published about 40 other operettas, some of the notable ones being *The Serenade*, *The Fortune Teller*, and *The Red Mill*. In 1904, he organized his own concert orchestra, and in 1914 he co-founded, along with John Philip Sousa and Irving Berlin, the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP) which protected composers rights and advocated for the American copyright law of 1909. Herbert also wrote two grand operas, *Natoma* in 1911 and *Madeleine* in 1914. His most notable work is the score for the film *The Fall of a Nation* (1916) which was the first original score ever composed for a film. Victor Herbert passed away on May 26, 1924 in New York, New York.





Harry Smith was born and raised in Chicago. As a young adult, he became a newspaper writer and was also a dramatic critic for the Chicago Daily News. In the mid 1870s he began writing songs, musical shows, and operettas. He collaborated on several shows with Reginald DeKoven such as *The Begum* (1888), *Don Quixote* (1889), and *Robin Hood* (1891). *Robin Hood* became quite successful, which caused Smith and DeKoven to collaborate many other times. Smith also spent time in New York City, where he collaborated with Victor Herbert. Together they created *The Enchantress* (1911), a show set in the fictional country Zergovia. The minister of war, Ozir, persuades an opera singer, Vivian Savary, to seduce the Prince so that he will be forced to abdicate his throne so that Ozir may govern the country. Vivian succeeds in seducing Prince Ivan, however she also falls in love with him, and destroys the abdication papers, making it impossible for him to abdicate the throne. Harry Smith was incredibly prolific in his career; it is said he wrote over 6,000 songs and 300 librettos, many of them performed on Broadway. Smith passed away on January 3, 1936 in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

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